

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 7/22/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/9, 10, 13-17, 20, 21/53	REPORT MADE BY RICHARD E. RODERMUND seb
TITLE CECIL BLOUNT deMILLE			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC LAW 402 80th CONGRESS (VOICE OF AMERICA)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Associates recommend. Files U.S. Tax Court reflect Commissioner of Internal Revenue claimed the amount of approximately \$189,000 against the applicant for personal income taxes for the years 1924 to 1930, and for approximately \$1,500,000 against CECIL B. deMILLE Productions, Inc. for taxes for the years 1924 through 1929. Decisions of U.S. Tax Court which ruled in favor of applicant and his corporation set forth. No pertinent additional information in files of Office of Security, Department of State or [redacted] Applicant issued four passports for world travel for purposes of business. Army Reserve service verified. The book entitled "Reds in America" published 1924 contains information that WILLIAM C. deMILLE attended a dinner for WILLIAM Z. FOSTER in the early 1920's and was listed as a person to be contacted for funds by one BRUCE ROGERS, who is described as the "money-getter for the Communists."

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/15/87 BY sp7mac/dd

RUC

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated July 7, 1953.
St. Louis air-tel dated July 10, 1953.
Bureau letter dated July 15, 1953.
Bureau telephone call to WFO on July 20, 1953.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

ASSOCIATES

Mr. ROBERT H. DENTON, Washington representative for Paramount Pictures, Inc., advised that he has known the applicant through his contact

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at Paramount for the past twenty-seven years. He related that the applicant is one of the outstanding directors in the motion picture industry and that most of his pictures have been released through Paramount. Mr. DENTON continued that he considers the applicant to be a very loyal and patriotic American, of good character and reputable associates. He stated that he is acquainted with the applicant's wife and daughter, Mrs. CECILIA HARPER. According to Mr. DENTON, nothing which would reflect adversely upon the conduct or personal habits of the applicant has ever come to his attention, and he would recommend him without reservation for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

Mr. KENNETH CLARK, Director of Information, Motion Picture Association of America, stated that he has known the applicant professionally since 1936. He related that his contact has been casual and he does not know too much concerning the applicant's private life. According to Mr. CLARK, nothing which would reflect unfavorably in any way upon the conduct, moral character, personal habits, associates, or reputation of the applicant has ever come to his attention. He continued that the Director of the Motion Picture Association, Mr. ERIC JOHNSTON, is presently on a business trip and will not be back for some time. He continued that one of the applicant's oldest and closest friends is Mr. FRANK FREEMAN who is Vice-President of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. Mr. CLARK added that he considers the applicant to be a very loyal American citizen and would recommend him highly for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miss CHLOE TRAYLOR, head of the files section, Tax Court of the United States, made available the following files regarding the applicant, his wife, and his corporation.

A petition was filed in the U.S. Board of Tax Appeals (now Tax Court of the United States) on February 19, 1931, by CECIL B. deMILLE, docket #52995, regarding income taxes for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926, in the amount of \$83,083.56 which was claimed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to be due from the applicant. A decision was entered on April 16, 1935, that DE MILLE owed the Government back taxes for the years 1924 through 1926 in the amount of \$19,171.95. A petition, docket #61291, was filed by DE MILLE on January 12, 1932, regarding back taxes

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The decisions as entered by the U.S. Board of Tax Appeals were upheld by the Circuit Court on April 16, 1937.

A petition was filed before the U.S. Board of Tax Appeals by CONSTANCE A. deMILLE on May 5, 1933, docket #71952, in that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue claimed that \$758.50 in income taxes for the year 1930 was owed by Mrs. deMILLE. The decision was entered on February 5, 1935, for the year 1930, showing Mrs. deMILLE owed taxes in the amount of \$953.17.

The files reflect that all of the above cases were heard at the same time by the U.S. Board of Tax Appeals. In the instance of the back personal income taxes owed by DE MILLE, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue claimed that he owed taxes on his wife's salary income. Stipulations were filed December 20, 1933, in which it was stated that DE MILLE's wife's salary income was not taxable as she filed separate income tax returns.

In regard to the claims against the corporation, it was claimed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that the money was owed as the surplus had been accumulated which was beyond reasonable business needs in an effort to avoid paying surtax.

The files also reflect that a stipulation, docket #92287, was filed by CECIL B. deMILLE Productions, Inc., in that income taxes in the amount of \$9,967.90 was owed for the year 1934. The decision was entered on May 4, 1938 that \$9,967.90 was owed.

The files contain no additional pertinent information concerning the applicant, his wife or his corporation.

SA WALTER W. MATHIESON, Jr., determined that the files of the Office of Security, Department of State, contain no pertinent additional information.

SA WILLIAM J. STATEN advised the files of the [redacted] contain no pertinent identifiable security information concerning the applicant.

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The files of the Passport Office, Department of State, were reviewed by SE GILMORE C. SNOWDEN, and reflect the following information.

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CECIL B. deMILLE was issued passport #90284 on July 8, 1947, for travel to Great Britain, Ireland and France on business for Paramount Pictures, Inc. His parents were listed as HENRY CHURCHILL deMILLE and MATILDA BEATRICE SAMUEL deMILLE.

He was issued passport #372376 on May 1, 1931, for proposed travel of two years to Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Poland, Hungary, Samaria, Abyssinia, Arabia, Russia, England, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Albania, China, Japan, Siam, Persia, and India for motion picture business and travel. The file also contains copy of a letter of introduction dated June 13, 1931, which was written by HENRY L. STIMSON to the American Diplomatic and Counselor Officers at the request of the Honorable LAURENCE RICHIEY, Secretary to the President.

CECIL B. deMILLE was issued passport #493301 on November 27, 1924, on indefinite period of travel to France, British Isles, Italy, Germany, Austria, Serbia, Egypt, and Tunis on motion picture business. He had been issued passport #87473 on September 30, 1921 for an indefinite period of travel to Great Britain, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Egypt, Portugal, Greece, Morocco, Tripoli, Algeria, and Gibraltar, and Monaco.

The files contain no derogatory or pertinent additional information.

The files of the Department of the Army were reviewed by SE JOHN J. LANDERS and reflected the following information.

The applicant, serial #0-227901, was appointed Major (Signal Reserve) on March 3, 1926, and accepted the appointment on March 22, 1926. He was transferred to the Inactive Reserve in the rank of Major on February 24, 1941, and accepted the appointment as Major, Inactive Reserve, on February 26, 1941. Information was contained in the file that the applicant was transferred to the honorary Reserve on December 3, 1948. No efficiency ratings or information reflecting active duty was contained in the files and the applicant's date and place of birth was verified.

The Library of Congress contained a copy of the book entitled "Reds in America," written by R. M. WHITNEY and published by the Beckwith Press, Inc., New York City in 1924.

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The following information was listed below the title in the first of the book. "The present status of the Revolutionary Movement in the United States based on documents seized by the authorities in the raid up in the convention of the Communist Party at Bridgman, Michigan, August 22, 1922, together with descriptions of numerous connections and associations of the Communists among the 'radicals,' 'Progressives' and 'pinks.'"

On page 83 the following is listed. "ROBERT MORSS LOVETT, then president of the Federated Press League, wrote ROGERS while he was in Los Angeles, urging him to canvass the movie colony at Hollywood, giving him names of prominent actors who 'helped us before and will do it again.'" The name "WILLIAM C. DE MILLE" is listed in this letter.
Wm. C. De MILLE

On page 81 BRUCE ROGERS is referred to as "a leading Communist of Seattle."

The following is listed on page 150. "When WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, the salaried industrial director of the Communist Party of America, was in Los Angeles, shortly before the party convention (of Bridgman, Michigan), which he attended as a delegate, he was the guest of honor at a reception given by CHARLIE CHAPLIN, the film comedian, at which were present many radical members of the 'movie' colony at Hollywood and a number of parlor Bolsheviks. Among them were WILLIAM C. deMILLE and ROB WAGNER."

On page 151 the following was listed. "BRUCE ROGERS was the money-getter for the Communists, to whom ROBERT MORSS LOVETT, Harvard '92, as president of the Federated Press League, wrote urging him to see and collect money from WILLIAM C. deMILLE ~~and other actors and directors.~~ LOVETT said in this letter, which was quoted in an earlier chapter, that he had written these men, that 'they helped us before and will do it again,' and assured ROGERS that 'these men are with us.' It may be of interest to 'movie fans' to know that WILLIAM C. deMILLE married a daughter of HENRY GEORGE and has been very active in single-tax movements." No other information concerning WILLIAM C. deMILLE was listed.

Who's Who in America reflects that WILLIAM CHURCHILL deMILLE married ANNA A. GEORGE on March 30, 1903. The same parents are listed for the applicant and WILLIAM CHURCHILL deMILLE.

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The following information regarding R. M. WHITNEY was listed.
"R.M. WHITNEY, director of the Washington Bureau of the American Defense Society, was born in 1875. He graduated from Harvard in 1897 and has been a newspaper reporter and editor in St. Louis, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and during the war covered the State Department for the Associated Press. He has been a correspondent in Mexico, Central and South America for many papers. He is the author of numerous pamphlets on patriotic subjects."

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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